

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN BOB STORY JR.**, on March 19, 2003
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 317-C Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bob Story Jr., Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Tom Zook (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Bill Glaser, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Tari Elam, Committee Secretary
Connie Erickson, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 639, 3/12/2003
Executive Action: HB 639

[PLEASE NOTE: ON THIS DATE, THE COMMITTEE MET AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME, ADJOURNED, AND RECONVENED AT 6:00 P.M. FOR A DISCUSSION ON HB 302. DURING THE 6:00 P.M. MEETING, SENATOR JIM ELLIOTT WAS EXCUSED.]

HEARING ON HB 639

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE JESSE LASLOVICH

Proponents: Bill Johnston, University of Montana

Opponents: NONE

Informational Witnesses: NONE

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.4 - 2.8}

REPRESENTATIVE JESSE LASLOVICH, HD 37, Anaconda, brought forward a bill providing that fines for violations of motor vehicle or parking regulations on a university system campus be assessed in accordance with a schedule that is approved by the Board of Regents. He stated the bill removes a \$10 cap on parking violations at university campuses. He explained the current fee for a parking permit is \$75.00 per semester. Many people do not purchase the permit and simply take the chance they will not be ticketed, or will receive fewer than seven tickets per semester. Unfortunately, for those who do purchase permits, lots are often filled with numerous parking violators. **REP. LASLOVICH** explained the bill will allow the Regents to raise fees for violations.

Proponents' Testimony:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2.9 - 3.4}

Bill Johnston, University of Montana, Missoula, Butte, Dillon, and Helena, conveyed his institution's support for the bill. He believes the bill presents a fair solution to the problem. He explained students do have a review process available to them in the event any fee is perceived to be punitive; this will not change under the bill. Additionally, he believes the bill protects the interests of students who purchase parking permits. He expressed appreciation to the Committee.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 3.6 - 11.5}

SENATOR MIKE COONEY inquired whether **REP. LASLOVICH** knew what the new fines would be. **REP. LASLOVICH** stated, to the best of his knowledge, for "false registration" the fine would be \$50.00, for

parking in a reserved section \$25.00, and for overtime parking \$15.00.

SENATOR ROYAL JOHNSON inquired whether **REP. LASLOVICH** was still a student at the university. **REP. LASLOVICH** replied in the affirmative. **SEN. JOHNSON** asked whether this might present a conflict of interest. **REP. LASLOVICH** replied in the negative.

SENATOR EDWARD BUTCHER asked whether the university plans to do anything about "guest parking." **REP. LASLOVICH** noted the university does offer a guest decal, however, the parking situation is difficult. He briefly addressed steps taken by the university regarding the parking situation. **SEN. BUTCHER** asked whether the increase in fees might encourage the use of bicycle or public transportation; and, whether public transportation is available. **REP. LASLOVICH** replied public transportation is excellent at the Missoula campus, and he hopes this will encourage people to use alternative modes of transport.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. LASLOVICH closed discussion on the bill without additional comment.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 639

Motion/Vote: **SEN. MANGAN** moved that HB 639 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried 9-0; with **BLACK** and **GLASER** voting AYE via proxy, and **ELLIOTT** excused.

THE MEETING WAS TEMPORARILY ADJOURNED AT 3:45 P.M., UNTIL 6:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN BILL GLASER called the Committee to order at 6:00 P.M.. A lengthy discussion occurred regarding to **HB 302**, a bill providing for the creation of a state-wide pool for healthcare insurance. Minutes are not provided for this portion of the meeting because they are not a part of a public hearing. An audio recording was made of meeting and is available for review.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:15 P.M.

SEN. BOB STORY, JR., Vice Chairman

TARI ELAM, Secretary

BG/TE

EXHIBIT (eds58aad)